

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Rainer HINTSCHE ) Group Art Unit: N/A  
Application No.: Continuation-in-Part of ) Examiner: N/A  
Application No. 09/214,493 )  
Filed: July 10, 2001 )  
For: SENSOR AND/OR SEPARATING )  
ELEMENT AND PROCESS FOR )  
THE PRODUCTION AND USE )  
THEREOF )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 22-34 as follows.

22. A process according to claim 19, characterised in that the membrane is produced from mechanically stable, membrane-forming, inorganic material.

23. A process according to claim 19, characterised in that the membrane is produced from silicon, one or more silicon compounds and/or a material containing silicon.